

Appendix A.1

Glossary of Terms

Authentic assessment. Authentic assessments are any evaluation that simulates how workers are evaluated on the job, such as from a oral and written presentation or a portfolio that highlights work done during the semester.

Constructivism. An educational paradigm which holds that knowledge is not transmitted directly from one person who knows to another, but is built up or "constructed" by the learner himself or herself.

Geographic concepts . Geographic concepts embody 18 tenets that include: (1) the world in spatial terms, (2) places and regions, (3) physical systems, (4) human systems, (5) environment and society, and (6) the uses of geography. These objectives are defined by the Geography Education Standards Project and published in 1994 as Geography For Life.

Geographic content. Geographic content is the subject matter as taught and learned in the classroom. It is a combination of geographic skills and knowledge, as defined by the national geography standards.

Geographic information system (GIS). A GIS is computer software that allows for the input, manipulation, mapping, and analysis of spatially referenced data in a problem-solving involvement. In a broader sense, a GIS includes hardware, software, data, and people,

Geographic skills. Geographic skills, as defined by the national geography standards, consist of four abilities that are critical for the development of a geographically well-informed person, including (1) the ability to ask and answer geographic questions, (2) acquire geographic information, (3) organize geographic information, and (4) analyze geographic information.

Inquiry-based method. The inquiry-based educational method consists of a set of instructional techniques that emphasize student involvement in the process of knowledge by asking questions based on exploration of relevant, real-world data in a problem-solving environment.

Inservice. Term referring to teachers who are already practicing classroom teachers. An inservice training, for example, is conducted for teachers who are school faculty members, as contrasted with preservice training, which is conducted for people studying to be teachers.

Issues-based method. Issues-based educational methods use real-world, current-events issues and problems for their instructional base. The assumption is that lessons based on issues, because they are identifiable topics of concern frequently cited in newspapers and magazines, will be more relevant, engaging, and beneficial to students than non-issues-based lessons.

Preservice. Term referring to people who are studying to become classroom teachers; i.e. they are typically students in a university department of education.

Standards-based methods. Standards-based methods of education use parts or all of national, state, or local, school-district content standards to teach a subject matter. In the case of national geography standards, these methods include the 18 geography objectives and/or the six essential elements as defined by the Geography Education Standards Project and published in 1994 as Geography For Life.